

Message Text

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12

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 SCI-06 L-03 RSR-01 /040 W

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R 260801 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1147

INFO ADC ENT AFB COLO

NAVFACENGCOM WASHDC

CINCPACAF HICKAM AB HI

PACNAVFACENGCOM PEARL HARBOR HI

13 AF CLARK AB PHIL

14 AEROSPFORCE ENT AB COLO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3516

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: BAKER- NUNN CAMERA STATION

REF: A) STATE 190995, 6/22/73 B) CANBERRA 3254, 7/7/70

C) STATE 014720, 1/28/71 D) CANBERRA 2348, 4/22/71

E) STATE 087084, 5/20/71 F) CANBERRA 3833, 7/7/72

G) CANBERRA 4151, 7/20/72 H) STATE 149248, 8/17/72

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR BAKER- NUNN CAMERA STATION AT BICKLEY OBSERVATORY, PERTH, IS THAT WE HAVE REACHED SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT AT WORKING LEVEL ON DRAFT TEXT. BEFORE PURSUING AGREEMENT WITH GOA, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WISHES TO AWAIT RESULTS OF BIENNIAL ALP PARTY CONFERENCE IN JULY. AT THIS CONFERENCE GOVERNMENT LEADERS EXPECT TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF THEIR SUPPORT OF EXISTING U. S.- AUSTRALIAN DEFENSES- FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA. EMBASSY EXPECTS THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. DEPENDING ON SITUATION WHICH DEVELOPS AS RESULT OF ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE, EMBASSY WILL BE IN POSITION

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TO DETERMINE BEST TACTICS FOR HANDLING BAKER- NUNN AGREEMENT AND OTHER PROPOSED USG DEFENSE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES USAF'S FOREBEARANCE IN NOT PRESSING FOR CONCLUSION OF BAKER- NUNN CAMERA STATION AGREEMENT DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. AS NOTED REF A, PROJECT OMEGA AGREEMENT IS ABOUT TO BE CONSIDERED BY JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT TIME WILL BE RIGHT IN NEAR FUTURE TO AGAIN BROACH BAKER- NUNN AGREEMENT WITH GOA. EMBASSY HAS, HOWEVER, DELAYED PRESENTATION OF OTHER PROPOSED DOD PROGRAMS UNTIL AFTER BIENNIAL ALP CONFERENCE MEETS IN QUEENSLAND FROM JULY 9 THROUGH 13. DEPENDING ON SITUATION WHICH DEVELOPS AS RESULT OF ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE, WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE TACTICS FOR HANDLING BAKER- NUNN AGREEMENT ALONG WITH NUMBER OF OTHER PROPOSED DOD PROGRAMS WITH GOA. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE THAT ALP CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE CURRENT GOVERNMENT WITH CONTINUED BASIS FOR COOPERATION IN USG DEFENSE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS, THOUGH CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO SUCH COOPERATION IS EXPECTED TO BE VOICED BY ELEMENTS IN ALP.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS CONTAINED REF A, EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING IS AS FOLLOWS: A) DRAFT AGREEMENT: LATEST AUSTRALIAN DRAFT TEXT OF BAKER- NUNN AGREEMENT IS CONTAINED IN REF D WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED BY REFS E, F, G AND H. WE EXPECT DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH COPY OF THEIR VERSION DRAFT AGREEMENT WHEN SUBJECT IS RAISED FORMALLY WITH THEM AGAIN. B) AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE: AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENT TO THE STATION WAS CONTAINED IN A NOTE OF JULY 7, 1970 AND TRANSMITTED IN REF B. EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THIS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE CAN BE MET BY USG. C) JOINT MANNING: EMBASSY RAISED POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN MANNING OF STATION AND ANY COSTS RELATED THERETO IN INFORMAL TALKING PAPER GIVEN TO DFA FEB 17, 1971 WHICH WAS BASED UPON REF C. SUBSEQUENTLY, DFA (REF G) INFORMED EMBASSY THAT GOA HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL NOT PROVIDE PERSONNEL TO ASSIST IN RUNNING
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OF THE STATION. D) RESTORATION OF SITE: GOA HAS ACCEPTED PARAGRAPH RELATED TO SITE RESTORATION PROPOSED BY USG (REF F).

4. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL ONE OF MAJOR HOLDUPS IN PURSUING BAKER- NUNN AGREEMENT IN PAST WAS PROVISION OF SITE AT BICKLEY OBSERVATORY NEAR PERTH. WHEN

SUBJECT OF AGREEMENT IS AGAIN RAISED WITH GOA, OUR
ACCEPTANCE OF BICKLEY SITE WILL BE IMPLIED. EMBASSY
HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GOA OR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AGAIN AGREE TO BICKLEY SITE FOR
STATION, BUT INFORMAL CONFIRMATION THAT SITE IS STILL
AVAILABLE MIGHT BE ADVISABLE AT TIME NEGOTIATIONS ARE
RESUMED.

5. INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED PARA
2 REF A WILL BE PROVIDED TO GOA AT TIME SUBJECT OF
AGREEMENT IS RAISED WITH DFA.
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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